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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2012

Surf's up!

Ride the waves
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Regional transit

It's coming
Page 5

Raccoon watch

Distemper outbreak spreads
Page 17

\$11M pot bust

Wainfleet greenhouse raided
Page 22

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IMPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 31 VOLUME 16

For news updated daily see www.importnews.ca

■ CANAL DAYS: Marine Museum

Fiddling with astronomy

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Celtic music, model boats, model planes, woodcarving, blacksmithing and War of 1812 reenactors are just some of things visitors to Canal Days will be able to find on the grounds of Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum.

"We have more family activities," says Michelle Mason, assistant curator at the museum where Canal Days started.

Royal Ontario Museum's travelling Starlab will be in the heritage archives from Aug. 4 to 10. The inflatable planetarium will hold 25 people and a presentation on the night sky and astronomy will take about an hour to watch.

see MUSEUM | page 2



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum will host Royal Ontario Museum's travelling Starlab during Canal Days. Holding stars for the display are, from left, summer student Jaclyn Klukach, registrar Tami Daoust, summer student Amanda Banks and assistant curator Michelle Mason.

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upfront

■ **MUSEUM:** Marine exhibits and more

Coast Guards featured at lighthouse

FROM PAGE 1

Ian Shelton, an astronomer who discovered a supernova, the first one visible to the naked eye, will be at the museum to talk people through the presentation and discuss the landing of a new Mars rover (which takes place on Aug. 8) and the Perseids meteor shower, which takes place Aug. 11-12.

"We're excited to have him," Mason says.

Vox Violins and Niagara Old Time Fiddlers will perform on the Canal Days Saturday on the museum grounds. Against the Grain and Tara's Coast Off Highland Dance perform on the Sunday.

An 18-hole mini-putt course will be set up on the grounds of the museum and Port Colborne library.

Also featured will be a Great Lakes Model Boat Association remote control boat show, an annual favour-

rite at the museum, and a static plane exhibit by Rose City Model Flyers.

Like the model boats, regulars such as woodcarvers, rope-ladder making and blacksmith demonstrations will be back. New blacksmiths will be in the blacksmith shop and will be doing something different for visitors to the museum, Mason says.

Also new is the exhibit *Permission to Come Aboard*, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Coast Guard. Photos and other items related to the Coast Guard will be on display in the Marine Exhibit Lighthouse.

"War of 1812 re-enactors from the 1st Lincoln Militia Re-enactors will be camping on the grounds and putting on demonstrations," Mason says.

The museum is at 280 King St. More information on Canal Days schedules can be found at www.canaldays.ca.

■ **CANAL DAYS:** War of 1812 re-enactors to be featured at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — War of 1812 re-enactors will set up camp at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park and battle for control of it during Canal Days.

Mayor Vance Badawey, speaking at a luncheon for Canal Days sponsors and the media Tuesday, said the re-enactors will be in the park on the Friday evening, Aug. 3, when the four-day festival kicks off.

Battle re-enactments will take place on the Saturday — just one of the attractions taking place at the park.

"On Saturday evening, kiters will be out for a night fly that includes lighted kites. On Sunday, the park will host over 750 cars and hundreds of kites, along with additional activities happening around the park, including our Kids' Zone Splashpad, and over at Sugarbark Marina, Don Cherry's Bar and Grill and Niagara Boarder Pass Wakeboarding will offer fun for the whole family," said the mayor.

With the event celebrating the city's marine heritage, a number of vessels will be docked in the Welland Canal, which has the second longest lock in the world, Lock 8, in

Port Colborne.

Empire Sandy and Buffalo fire boat *E.M. Cotter* will be back. Coming with them are the U.S. brig *Niagara* — a replica of the vessel that served as the American's relief flagship during the War of 1812 — and the Canadian Coast Guard vessel *Cove Isle*.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Coast Guard.

Badawey said people should come out on Sunday night for a boat parade of lights, which precedes a fireworks show to be put on by RedBoss Pyrotechnics.

"Last year's boat parade was probably the best one we've had."

The mayor said the fireworks show is always spectacular as the company introduces new and unique firework shells each year.

"It's always an original show."

Seaway Park, Sugarloaf, Princess and West Ss. will be filled with activities for teens, tweens, children and toddlers,

including a midway of rides and games. There will be more games and rides this year, the mayor said, adding the city listened to people who attend the event and wanted to see more.

"From lock to lake, while watching vessels from around the world make their way in and out of one of the world's largest locks, the entire family will enjoy the flavours of Niagara along Historic West St. with an armada of culinary favourites."

Other activities taking place during the festival, Aug. 3 to Aug. 6, include: a MuchVideo Dance Party, Roselawn Garden Swing, the Canal Days Mountain Bike Race, vessel cruises and tours, an indoor craft show at Westside Arena, Showboat Theatre Duck Race and the Sip & Swirl Canal Days Wine and Beer Garden along the canal. Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum will also have numerous activities.

For more information on Canal Days, see www.canaldays.ca.

CANAL DAYS FACTS

■ More than 300,000 people traditionally attend Canal Days.

■ Total economic impact of Canal Days estimated at \$2.1 million — this is derived from spending by non-locals (from outside 40km) and event operations.

■ Local residents (from within 40km) spent \$4.9 million related to the event — \$2.1 million spent at restaurants, bars, clubs and concessions.

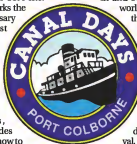
■ Local employment supported by event. Festival-related spending supports an equivalent of 42 full-year jobs.

■ Canal Days attracts tourists from many regions. Approximately one-third of attendees reside from beyond 40 km. Many from the GTA, 10% from outside Canada.

■ Sponsors recalled and recalled by eventgoers — 63% of attendees choose to do business with companies that support Canal Days.

■ Canal Days is highly-rated by most attendees.

Source: City of Port Colborne



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■ **WATERSPORTS:** Wyldewood Beach a great place for students learning to ride the waves

Surf's up on Lake Erie

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Jill Prenger thought skills she's learned as a windsurfer would translate as she tried her hand at surfing, but she found herself taking a few dives in the water as she tried to ride Lake Erie's waves.

"It's not as easy as it looks. Windsurfing didn't help me at all," said Prenger with a laugh.

Prenger, who's been a dedicated windsurfer for the past six years, said the difference between surfing and wind-surfing is stance and weight placement.

"When you're windsurfing, you're leaning back more on the board and holding on to the sail."

She found with surfing, she had to place her weight more forward on the board.

Prenger was one of two women who were on Wyldewood Beach in Port Colborne taking surfing lessons from Surf Ontario's Mike Sandusky.

"This is the first time I've tried surfing," she said, adding she loves being on the water.

The lessons with Sandusky won't be the last for the Toronto woman. She plans to take more.

"It was really fun."

Out on the water with Prenger was Rachelle Calingasan of Mississauga.

It was the second time Calingasan has taken surf lessons with Sandusky. She's also taken stand-up paddling (SUP) lessons with him.

She's been on the waters before trying her hand on a surfboard in locations like Hawaii and San Diego, but said there's a difference between the waves on the ocean and those on Erie.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
As a wave crashes around Mike Sandusky, of Surf Ontario, he holds on to Jill Prenger's surfboard off of Wyldewood Beach in Port Colborne. Sandusky was teaching Prenger how to surf. It was the first time the Toronto woman, who windsurfs, tried surfing.

"The waves here are non-stop," she said, adding it was exhausting trying to fight through them.

Asked what she enjoyed about surfing, Calingasan said she feels free.

"There's nothing but you, the water and your board."

Both women said Sandusky is a great teacher and would take lessons from his again.

"He's really positive," said Calingasan.

Sandusky, who has been surfing for 12 years, operates Surf Ontario, a shop in Toronto that sells surfboard and stand-up paddle boards as well as other equipment associated with surfing.

He teaches others how to surf on lakes Ontario, Huron and Erie, depending on where the waves are. He uses Environment Canada, the Weather Network, wave models and information from buoys stationed in the lakes to figure out where the surf will be.

Wyldewood Beach, said Sandusky, is a good location to teach new surfers because the waves are a bit shorter than at other nearby locations, the beach is clean and there aren't

any children or adults playing in the water that his students have to worry about crashing into.

"Last week I taught four people down here."

Holding on to the surfboards of the students and fighting the waves and current is exhausting, he said. That's why he'll only teach two people at a time.

"I want to keep sharp and fresh," said Sandusky, who, after he was finished teaching, grabbed his surfboard and headed off to another location to catch larger waves with other surfers.

For more information on surfing lessons, see Surf Ontario's website www.surf-ontario.ca or its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Surf-Ontario/17309984967>.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

Hang 10

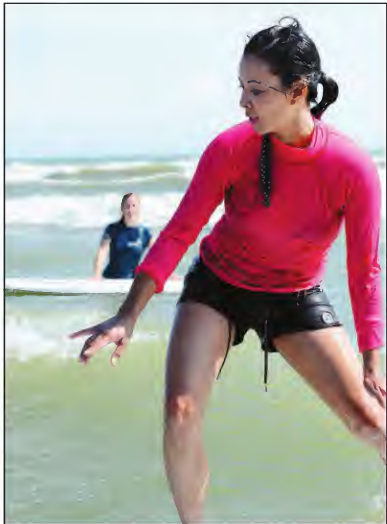
■ Surfing has been taking place on the Great Lakes, locally at Port Colborne and Burlington, and across the border on Lake Superior and at Cleveland for years.

■ The Wyldewood Surf Club was founded nearly 40 years ago and has members from both Canada and the United States, who surf the waters of Buffalo, Niagara and Hamilton.

■ Niagara-on-the-Lake Surf Club has surfers who also ride the waves in Port Colborne and Port Erie and who have put on a rescue course for surfers and done beach cleanups.

■ Surfing in the area is gaining popularity. Surfers from Rochester, N.Y., New Jersey, Toronto and beyond come down to the area during stormy weather.

■ Surfing takes places pretty much all year round, provided the lakes aren't frozen over.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

With Jill Prenger watching in the background, Rachelle Calingasan, of Mississauga, rides a wave at Wyldewood Beach in Port Colborne. Calingasan and Prenger were learning how to surf under the instruction of Mike Sandusky, of Surf Ontario.

INPORT NEWS

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■ ourview

The Canal Days festival underscores marine history, heritage and fun

Port Colborne has its turn to bask in the glow of publicity and attention over the long holiday weekend just ahead.

It's an opportunity that, we know, will be ably and proudly taken advantage of.

The occasion of course is the Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, celebrated this year from Friday, Aug. 3 through Monday, Aug. 6.

Key words here are "marine heritage." Port Colborne, known as the Lakeside City, is a working marine community. There is history and there is heritage here, and it is fitting and just that both are observed and celebrated, especially during this high-profile long weekend.

The marine heritage affiliation and angle makes this a bona fide community festival. As Canal Days' publicity trumpets and rightly so: "Port Colborne is a working marine community, with rich nautical history and welcoming hospitality...the city takes the time to celebrate the reasons why this picturesque town has grown and prospered - our marine heritage and our connection to the St. Lawrence Seaway and the seafaring world at large."

Southern Ontario, including of course Niagara, has an abundance of festivals held throughout the year's four seasons. Some are large, some are small; some are strictly local, some have international standing and status. We can say here with certainty that the Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival has evolved and emerged to be one of the pre-eminent festivals not only in the region but across the province. Now in its fourth decade, this festival enjoys a place on the national stage as well. Just last week, an inquiry was received from folks in Alberta about the availability of accommodation close to Port Colborne so they could stay a night or two nearby the height of celebrations.

Justifiably so. Canal Days has an agenda so diverse that it has appeal right across age and personal interest demographics. The term, "something for everyone" is one used often without justification. But in the case of Canal Days - it is neither exaggeration nor empty boast.

This year the War of 1812 is being showcased during Canal Days with special exhibits and events at the Port Colborne Historical and Maritime Museum. Of course, many other attractions are being hosted at this venue, always a popular destination for visitors from near and far.

The bottom line is this: There is much to see, much to listen to, much to do, much to try and much to experience. If estimates are correct, about 300,000 people traditionally attend Port Colborne's Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival - in our book the premier annual celebration that Niagara has to offer.

■ COLUMN: I've Been Thinking

PASTOR GARY TOMLUCK
Wainfleet Congregational Church

In Isaiah 43:2 the Lord says "When you pass through the waters and when you pass through the rivers - when not I, will be with you!" Fire and water are essential for our life but out of control they can cause unbelievable damage.

We rather painfully experienced this in the 60's when our family business Welland Lumber & Builders Supplies burned down. Not only were the flames from the fire horrendous - eating everything in its path, but the water from the firefighters' hoses caused further damage. They fought valiantly to extinguish those flames but they were largely unsuccessful.

We had just taken inventory and most of our stock was inside. We shovelled and dumped out hundreds maybe thousands of wheelbarrows of charred remains trying to salvage what we could.

When you are consumed with fiery trials, when you are overwhelmed by a flood of problems you may think that the Lord is sleeping at the switch and that he doesn't care. When the disciples encountered that severe storm that was actually what Jesus was doing, He was exhausted yet he had everything under control. They even said to him "Lord don't you care?" Then Jesus rebuked his disciples and the storm and the sea became calm like glass.

Are you a Christian? Are you a defeated Christian?

Are you crawling into dark caves of depression?

■ readers' views

Going back to region no answer

It's hard to believe residents of Wainfleet would want to beg Niagara Region back exercising our own powers.

It had that responsibility for many years and have a lot of responsibility for the current situation. I believe the latest position is a rejection of the Wainfleet program presented to us.

You will note the region cannot even run a maintenance program on the facilities we, the taxpayers, provided it with and entrusted it to maintain.

Betty Kane's concern about looking foolish if the sewage issue is returned to the region is rather pointless. The issue is about doing things right, not about who administers it.

Intending that visiting the sewage displays after the public meeting, the first booth inside the door offered an inspection by a certified inspector for a special of

sion? Are you falling off the mountains you are trying to climb? Are you forgetting God's promises, and giving into giant despair? Do you feel you are on the Titanic and have hit an iceberg and sinking fast? Are you in a quick despond - in quicksand and are slowly going down. Is that furnace of affliction turned up seven times too hot? Are the mountains too high and the valleys too deep? Does the sun refuse to shine and you have almost given up all hope? Is your faith almost shipwrecked? Do you flood your bed with tears? Is God's hand heavy upon you? Do you feel you are alone in the valley? Are you sitting in the ash heap trying to find relief that never seems to come? Do you feel like you can't go to much longer unless your circumstances change?

What can you say to all of these things? Help? S.O.S? What does God say? Good that is exactly where I want you to be. Now I've got your attention. It took those storms, the furnace, the potter's wheel, the dark nights of the soul, those mountains, those caves of depression, that confusion, you a tears, your pain - my hand being heavy upon you to show you that you can do nothing without me. That you must be utterly dependent on me for everything. For your plans, your future, your health, your joy, your families, your lives, you very souls. Commit your life, your soul, everything to me. You don't understand me nor my ways. I am God and you are not. Trust me in the light, trust me in the dark, I love you with an everlasting love.

I gave my son my eternal son for you.

That's how much I love you. There's no greater love than this. What more could I do? My own son loved you. He hung and writhed on that cross just for you. And I watched him suffer there. I could have set him free but where would you or anyone be now? There was no other way. It tore my heart out to watch what those evil people did to them there. And yet he never complained once. And as hard as it was he still drank that cup. I even braved my son to secure your salvation. So don't ever think for a moment that I don't care about you. And don't ever say that I don't love you. I proved it over and over again. And at that cross every drop of spit, every sweat, every punch, and every blow from that hammer never produced an evil thought in his mind nor bitterness in his heart.

Many people were crucified before but no one could take all the sins of the world upon themselves as he did. And as he was separated from me his pain was such that he shouted "My God, my God why have thou forsaken me?" and "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" And I forgive those who believe in him and repent and confess him as Lord of all. My son was born for you, he died for you and he was raised for you again, and at that cross every drop of

When you pass through the fire and the water Jesus has taken the fire of God's wrath and the water of the world's judgment upon him and now God the father says I will be with you, with you not only then but until the end of the age. God loves you now and forever.

\$80. This compares to Wainfleet's offering of \$50.

The record-keeping would be extra but even at government prices should not exceed \$50. The township could get costs in line by using third-party inspectors.

Two issues that need to be resolved are:

1. Systems installed within the past three years with proper approval and inspection should be exempt from inspection.

2. Unfortunately, not everyone maintains the system properly so some monitoring is required. The simple way to do this would be to require mandatory pump-outs every three or four years by licensed operators. Information could be provided on the invoice as to observed conditions with a copy going to the township.

Any question marks would trigger an inspection by the township inspector. Those operators need to be licensed by the township and subject to graffiti-cant fines for inaccurate reporting.

If our senior inspector really wanted to

be helpful, she could be advising people of the alternatives that would work on their properties.

Bernie Cusack
Wainfleet

Main in Port worth a visit

We are in the mid of peak time for tourism. The municipalities that will benefit most from tourists are Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Port Colborne. On a recent trip Port Colborne was impressed with how the city fared up Main St. Hats off to Mayor Vance Badaway and city council for a job well done. Main St. in Port Colborne is the nicest main street in Niagara. Port Colborne's beautification efforts will certainly pay off with tourists who will venture there while visiting Niagara this summer.

Charles Owen
Welland

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■ **TRANSPORTATION:** Councillors opt for region-wide program

One transit system for Niagara

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — One transit system to rule them all.

That's the direction Niagara Region council chose last Thursday, when councillors got behind kick-starting a process that will lead to options for a true regional bus line.

In a pair of recorded votes, they scooped past a challenge to Regional Chair Gary Burroughs and backed Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey's proposal for options by spring of 2013.

"This is a great opportunity for Niagara to be an easier and better place to work," said St. Catharines Coun. Bruce

Timms.

And, he said, having a true regional transit system could mean attracting full-time GO Transit train service. He said that's the region's best shot at growth.

"We don't have (GO) until we get regional transit," he said.

Councillors backed the motions despite St. Catharines Coun. Brian Heit bidding to split it in half, balking at the wording "facilitating the implementation" of a bus system.

That came after St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski challenged his right to split the motion. Petrowski's idea failed by an 18-9 score,

and the votes passed by 17-10 and 23-4 afterward.

"Some of us are concerned" with the wording, Heit said, adding it could be read as locking the region into a bus line.

The proposal even drew support from vocal regional transit foe Petrowski, who said he hoped it will help the region decide if it needs to be in transit or not.

Badawey said the motion asked the question of how regional transit should be provided, whether through the public or private sector.

"We are a world-class destination. Quite frankly, it's time we acted like it," he said.

jeff.bolichowski@sunmedia.ca



Welland Transit buses line up at the downtown terminal in December 2012.

File photo

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■ PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNER



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Richard O'Neil, left, is recognized by Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey as winner of the city's spring photography contest. O'Neil, a photographer with Digital Evolution Studio, won the contest with his picture of Lock 8.

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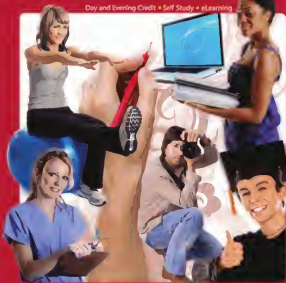
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■ DOWNTOWN PORT COLBORNE: 2 hours free parking

No monopoly on free parking

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It looks like the end of the road for paid parking in downtown Port Colborne — for now, anyway.

On Monday, July 23, city council approved, after much debate, moving forward with a one-year trial period

for two-hour free parking in the downtown core.

Armed with a petition signed by more than 50 business representatives, the downtown business improvement area board brought the issue forward in hopes of saying goodbye to the lakeside city's parking meters. Several BIA members made presentations Monday in support of free parking and one in opposition.

Funds collected from parking meters and parking fines pay for enforcement throughout the city.

In 2011, Port Colborne received \$21,430 in meter revenue and \$8,750 in parking fines.

Enforcement costs the city \$21,840 annually.

To help cover the cost of lost revenue during the trial, it was suggested retailers could advertise on bags covering the meter heads. This was also

suggested the city raise its fines for parking infractions. If council chooses to increase fines, an application must be submitted to the chief justice of the Ontario Court of Justice. There's no guarantee it will be approved.

It is yet to be determined whether it will be more cost-effective to bag meters or remove the heads and place them in storage. Concerns were raised over vandalism and deterioration of the meters should they be left in place.

Enforcement of the two-hour limit will be done on a complaint-only basis.

The business community is aware it will have to "self-police" the issue, said BIA board member Gary Tassi.

Signage will also be created to assist with enforcement.

SEE FREE PARKING | page 9

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RECIPE of the month AUGUST

INGREDIENTS

1. 1 1/2 cups, ultrafiltered gelatin
- 1 bag, water
- 2 cups low-fat milk (powdered 1 1/2 oz.)
- 1 Vanilla Bean
3. 1 1/2 large egg yolks
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk



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Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream

1. Scrape gelatin over water in a small mixing bowl, let stand, stir a few times. Set aside.
2. Heat 1 1/2 cups milk into a large saucepan. Pour gelatin into milk, cooking on low to dissolve, scrape the inside with milk & add the pod into mixture.
3. Warm over medium heat, until effervescent. In a medium bowl whisk an egg yolk & condensed milk. Gradually pour hot milk into bowl, whisk until blended. Return to saucepan, reduce the gas to cook over medium heat. Stirring with a wooden spoon, until the back of the spoon is lightly coated. In a 1/2 measure, the milk will be cooked.
4. In a clean large bowl, strain the custard through a fine sieve, add, and softened gelatin, whisk until melted. Then stir the remaining 1 1/2 cups milk, whisk until blended. Cover, refrigerate & chill for about 2 hours.

PREPARATIONS:

"You will need a 50 ounce empty coffee can, 1 cup of milk divided into 1/2 cup each, & 1 gallon ultra filtered bag (Grove). Whisk ice cream mixture & pour into a 1 gallon size sealable freezer bag, double bag to prevent leakage. Fill the coffee can halfway with ice cubes & 1/2 cup salt. Place the ice cream freezer bag on top of the sealed ice cube can. And cover it with the remaining 1/2 cup salt. Cover the can with newspaper & a double outer ice cream liner in the combination of salt, contact, about 5 minutes. If the bag freezes too much, remove the ice cream bag from the can & place in freezer for 10 to 20 minutes. Makes 1 quart, about 8 servings.

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■ FREE PARKING

Permanent change sought for downtown

FROM PAGE 8



Desmarais

Having the town's parking policed by downtown merchants "could be confrontational"

and, in turn, "create ill will," said Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais, who was opposed to the idea.

After taking her own survey of downtown shoppers and speaking to about 60 people, Desmarais said it seemed no one felt deterred by the cost of parking.

Her Ward 2 counterpart Yvon Doucet felt strongly

that councillors should act in support of what the BIA community has clearly said it wants — free parking downtown.

"We can't ignore 50 businesses," he said.

Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele believes the BIA wants to see free parking downtown permanently, not on a trial basis. With several trials

having been conducted in the city over the past 10 years, he put forward a motion to see free parking implemented permanently. It was defeated.

A report containing details on cost, the BIA's involvement and best practice for implementation is expected to come before council in late September.

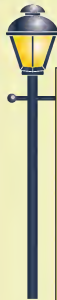
The motion:

That Port Colborne move forward with two-hour free parking on a one-year trial basis and that city staff meet with the downtown business improvement area board to discuss and report back to council cost and implementation methods.

In favour: Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny, Ward 4 Couns. Ron Bodner and Barbara Butters, and Mayor Vance Badaway.

Opposed: Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele, Ward 2 Couns. Angie Desmarais and Yvon Doucet.

Absent: Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott and Ward 3 Coun. Frank Danch.



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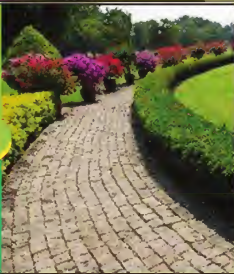


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2012 contest

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■ CHAMBER BBQ



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Former mayor Neal Schoen, left, talks with Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey at Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce's eighth annual Meet the Reps BBQ at Lock 8 Park in Port Colborne. Local, regional, provincial and federal politicians were invited to the BBQ to meet casually and speak with residents and members of the business community.



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PORT COLBORNE'S

WHO'S WHO?

PORT COLBORNE'S

WHO'S WHO?

■ THE INTERNET: Township not dealing in Viagra and Cialis

Wainfleet website spammed

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — An attack by Russian spammers caused the Township of Wainfleet to shut down its website and replace it with a temporary page earlier this month.

Wainfleet's information technology specialist, Darius Zelichowski, noticed a malicious code on the administrative side of the website, a side not seen by the public.

"The code redirected us to pages with just words. The pages changed all the time. It was fairly easy to trace it back to Russia," he said.

Another thing the mali-

cious code did was change the way Wainfleet's web page was shown from Google searches.

"It showed us as dealing in Viagra and Cialis," said Zelichowski.

If a person were to click on the link, however, it would bring them back to Wainfleet's website.

Google also had a warning the site might be compromised just below the link.

Zelichowski said it will take a while for the website to change the way it's shown on Google searches, but the Viagra and Cialis references will eventually go away.

Due to the nature of the

attack, Zelichowski said it was easier to take down the whole website and reinstall it from scratch.

While inconvenient, the attack wasn't all bad. It coincided with a decision by the township to change its website.

"Staff was telling me visitors did not like our website at all," said Zelichowski, adding people thought it was too difficult to navigate.

Zelichowski was happy to hear those comments, because the software being used for the website was coming to the end of its life and there were security issues surrounding it as well.

Wainfleet had hoped to have a new website online this fall, with the original site in place until that time. The attack has sped up that process.

"We're going to have a new, faster website that is easier to navigate. I could have the new one online in five minutes if instructed," said Zelichowski.

He's just waiting for township management to decide what it wants on the home page before it goes up.

Visitors to Wainfleet's website — www.wainfleet.ca — will find a basic page right now.

Viagra Pfizer • Cialis Canadian Pharmacy ... • Township of Wainfleet
www.wainfleet.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=106
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This screen shot shows how Wainfleet's website shows up in Google searches.



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WHO'S WHO?

■ **WILDLIFE:** Humane society's call volume has increased by 150%, responding to reports of raccoons with distemper symptoms

Raccoon distemper outbreak spreading

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — An outbreak of distemper affecting raccoons has spread into the heart of Niagara.

While the disease was prevalent earlier this year in the Haldimand area, Welland and District Humane Society executive director John Greer said it has continued to spread westward into Niagara during the spring and summer months.

Humane society staff have been inundated with calls from people concerned about raccoons on their property with obvious symptoms of

the fatal disease.

"Our wildlife calls are through the roof for raccoons this year. It just seems like epidemic proportions," Greer said. "It's all distemper related. That's the one really hit them really hard."

He said the number of calls the humane society receives for raccoons with distemper symptoms is up about 150% over previous years.

"It's really been unfortunate."

Greer said wildlife experts he's spoken to suspect the unusually warm winter might have contributed to the prevalence of the disease.

Extremely cold tempera-

tures kill off many viruses during the winter, but "this winter was so mild that when we did get cold spells they didn't really last, and the next day it could be up to almost 20 degrees."

Greer said one issue that may contribute to the spread of distemper is people trapping raccoons and illegally transporting them more than one kilometre away from their homes.

Doing so, he said, can "really decimate the wildlife population."

In addition to transporting the animal, he said people are inadvertently transferring the diseases the raccoon may

be carrying to "a whole new population of animals" that might have not been experiencing the same disease. He said the raccoon may seem healthy, but it could be carrying distemper.

"I think people are doing that more now," he said. "It's against the law. You can be fined for doing it."

Distemper attacks an animal's nervous system causing it to behave erratically, wander slowly and lethargically. Greer said a green tint is visible in the eyes of the ill animals when light is shone at them.

"You have to be careful with your dogs," Greer

warned. "If the dogs are up to date with their vaccine they should be fine, but if they do come in contact with a raccoon they should be veterinarian checked just to make sure."

There are treatments that can prolong the life of an infected animal, but there is no cure.

Although the disease poses no threat to humans, Greer said people still need to be careful handling wild raccoons because the animals are also known to carry round worm — a parasite that can be deadly to humans.

"Anyone who does have a sick raccoon, they should

be careful. If they're gardening, wear gloves because the round worm is transferable," he said.

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca

Distemper outbreak

■ Humane society staff are responding to more than 14 calls a week assisting people who have found sick raccoons.

■ People can report raccoons with symptoms of distemper by calling the humane society at 905-735-1552.

■ Because there is no cure for the disease, the animals are humanely euthanized and their remains cremated.

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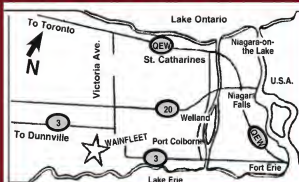
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■ COUNCIL

New 2,000 gallon pumper for Wainfleet Fire Dept.

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Firefighters will have a new vehicle to help them fight fires and deal with other emergencies in the township.

In a recorded vote, council voted to amend a report from Fire Chief Harry Flagg and accept an option to purchase a 2,000 gallon tanker truck.

Ald. Ted Hessels was opposed to the purchase of the truck, which will be used vehicle with

a new tank, and instead wanted to see the purchase of a 3,000 gallon truck.

Hessels, a volunteer firefighter for more than 20 years, believed that despite Flagg's report to council, a 3,000 gallon truck would not take more time to load and unload.

"A 3,000 gallon tanker will have a thousand more gallons at the scene when it is needed the most. The time it takes to fill is very minimal, it's the travel and hook up that will consume the most time. If there is a bottle-

neck at the fire scene that means there is water supply."

Hessels said the chief used a number of fire departments as references and wondered why he never consulted with West Lincoln, which is more geographic to Wainfleet and has 2,900 gallons and 3200 gallon tankers.

"Why are larger tankers not a problem for them?"

Flagg, who took over as fire chief late last year, said the problem with the larger trucks is they won't fit in all of the halls in the

township.

"We have to fold in the mirrors on the trucks we have now." While width is a problem, length is really the major issue, the chief added.

He also said with a 2,000 gallon tanker, the ponds used to hold water at a scene are smaller and don't take up as much of the road as a larger pond would with a 3,000 gallon truck. That makes things safer for not only firefighters, but the public as well.

Hessels went back to his belief

that a larger tanker truck would be better, but Flagg didn't want to argue with the alderman.

"I don't want to get into a back and forth on this. A 2,000 gallon tanker truck is what we need. We shouldn't have to fix halls, we should have trucks that fit the halls," Flagg said.

The chief said the truck would give the township two tankers and they would be stationed at either end of Wainfleet. The township already has pumper trucks with 900 and 500 gallon capacities.



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■ **BEER ON WHEELS:** Catering brews to resort visitors

Mobile beer travelling to Sherkston Shores

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — More than 16 metres long and packed with cold ones, it will be hard to miss the mobile beer store as it rolls into town on Friday on its

way to Sherkston Shores.

The large converted trailer, which will act as a temporary store location, will set up shop at the popular resort on Friday — though it may not immediately open.

The Beer Store is still

waiting approval from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

As soon as approval is received, it will open at Sherkston for a three-week trial period, said Jeff Newton, a spokesperson for The Beer Store.

If all goes well, the store-on-wheels will be stationed at the resort until Labour Day.

This is the first summer The Beer Store has let the trailers hit the road, stationing them in tourist areas that see a "spike in

consumer traffic" during the warmer months, Newton said.

One will be stationed at Sherkston and a second at Wasaga Beach. If the project is a success, The Beer Store plans to increase the number of mobile outlets

in 2013.

During the colder months, the trailers will be used at existing Beer Stores that are under renovation.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca
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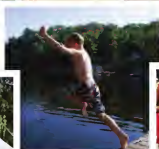
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■ **CRIME:** NRP raid marijuana greenhouse operation in Wainfleet

\$11 million in pot uprooted

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Police have seized more than \$11 million in marijuana from a Wainfleet greenhouse.

The Niagara Regional Police guns, gangs and grows unit had been investigating the greenhouse complex at 43634 Hwy. 3, just west of Smith Rd., since May.

On Wednesday, July 25 at about 9 a.m., police executed a search warrant at the property, where a large-scale marijuana grow-op was discovered.

Covering the entire growing area inside the greenhouse, marijuana plants ranged from about 15 centimetres to 1.3 metres.

The majority of the plants had reached the budding stage of development, police said in a news release.

A section of the greenhouse had been converted into a processing room to dry the marijuana. More than 11,300 plants were seized. Police put their combined value at more than \$11 million.

Three males initially fled from the greenhouse to a nearby corn field when officers executed the search warrant.

The area was contained immediately by the emergency task and canine units and all three suspects were found and arrested.

Due to the magnitude of the grow operation, officers from the forensic services unit, District 2 and 3 street crime units and the PAVIS (Provincial Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy) unit helped to dismantle and process the scene.

Charged with production of a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking are: 46-year-old Xian Zhi Wang, of Toronto; 61-year-old Neng Tao Jin, of Scarborough; and 30-year-old Rut Han Lin, of Markham. They had a court appearance scheduled for date July 30.

Police ask that Niagara residents, specifically people in rural communities, be vigilant in their surroundings and report suspected criminal activity to police to prevent criminal groups from establishing.

Signs residents can look out for include absentee neighbours, unkempt lawns, garbage not being put out, unusual odours in the area and a lack of interaction with the community, he said.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca



DAVE HANUSCHUK Staff Photo

Niagara Regional Police seized more than \$11 million in marijuana from greenhouses at a property on Hwy. 3 in Wainfleet, just west of Smith Rd.



Supplied photo

From this Hwy. 3 greenhouse in Wainfleet, Niagara Regional Police seized more than \$11 million worth of marijuana, Wednesday.

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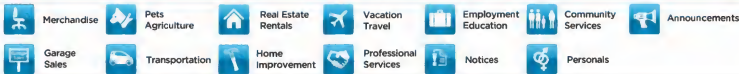
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CHAMBER BBO



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Niagara Region Chair Gary Burroughs, left, talks with John Maloney, a former MP, at Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce's eighth annual Meet the Reps BBQ at Lock 8 Park in Port Colborne. Local, regional, provincial and federal politicians were invited to the BBQ to meet casually and speak with residents and members of the business community.

BALANCING ACT



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Jill Prenger rides a wave off of Wyldewood Beach in Port Colborne. It was the first time the Toronto woman, who windsurfs, tried surfing. She was being taught by Mike Sandusky of Surf Ontario.

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■ **ENVIRONMENT:** For objectors, it's not easy being green

Niagara grabs the green title

JEFF BOLUCHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — Niagara Region has crowned itself the king of green power.

In a 20-7 vote, regional council proclaimed Niagara the Green Energy Capital of Canada.

The moniker, proposed by Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati, will adorn signs at key entrances to Niagara.

But the decision irked foes in west Niagara who are battling wind turbines and left some councillors asking what right the region has to the name.

"It's easy for (Diodati) to talk about green energy. He's got Niagara Falls, for pete's sake," said Welland Coun. Peter Kormos.

He slammed solar power as insufficient and wind power as a "sham," and said he "would care less" about support for the moniker from Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

"Putting that kind of sign up is like declaring, 'I'm the Pope, so you'd better kiss my ring,'" he said.

But Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey said the nickname could mean jobs.

"It's not just about putting a sign at every corner of the region. There's an economy attached to it," he said.

He'd taking on the name could help Niagara regain an economic edge and send

a message that industry will be closer to power sources here. That means lower costs.

"The move, Badawey said, is "150 years overdue."

Diodati's motion noted the title would label Niagara as a green energy development leader and signal Niagara is a key contributor to the country's green economy.

Businesses here, the motion noted, have already embraced the green moniker.

But Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs said the motion "fills in the face" of Wainfleet town council's opposition to wind turbine projects going up in the area. "To declare this all-encompassing designation, tonight, I think is premature," she said.

And Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe said the motion is "not respectful" of municipalities in Niagara opposed to green power.

The motion passed with an amendment from Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn to act on the moniker. He asked staff to update the region's growth plan to reflect the green energy credit by the end of the year.

St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan noted the vote wasn't about the province's controversial Green Energy Act, but about green energy in general.

"Really, what it's about is jobs," he said.

"Why can't we hold for some reasons, for the right reasons?"

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TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET PUBLIC NOTICE

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED

Please be advised that the regular Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 21st, 2012 has been **RESCHEDULED to Tuesday, August 14th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** located in the Township of Wainfleet Council Chambers, 31940 Highway #3. Any inquiries with respect to this matter should be directed to Mrs. Tanya Lamb, Clerk at (905) 899-3463, extension 226 or tlamb@wainfleet.ca.

***A Public Works Staff Report regarding the Mandatory Onsite Sewage System Inspection Program will be considered at this meeting.*

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back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Ian adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."



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